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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 19 November 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Ankara Declaration, signed at Ankara on 29 October 1998 by the Presidents of the Azerbaijani Republic, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

We would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 91 (a) and 93.

(*Signed*) Eldar G. Kouliev
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Azerbaijani Republic

(*Signed*) Peter P. Chkheidze
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Georgia

(*Signed*) Akmaral Kh. Arystanbekova
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Volkan Vural
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkey

(*Signed*) Alisher Vohidov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

Ankara Declaration, signed on 29 October 1998 by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Haydar Aliyev, the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Süleyman Demirel, and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, having evaluated the issues of exploration and production of oil and natural gas resources in their countries as well as the secure transportation of those resources to the world markets through multiple pipelines, and taking into consideration the urgency of decision-making, have signed the present Declaration.

1. For the consolidation of the independence and security of the countries of the Caspian region as well as the neighbouring countries, the Presidents considered the significance of exploiting the hydrocarbon resources in those countries. They also confirmed the need to transport the oil and natural gas resources through economically and commercially feasible multiple pipelines to support their efforts for economic development and to improve the welfare of their peoples. The Presidents furthermore reiterated their commitment to the principles of the European Energy Charter, stipulating the free, stable, environmentally friendly and unimpeded transportation of hydrocarbons.

2. As far as the hydrocarbon-producing countries are concerned, the Presidents underlined that the completion of the East-West corridor, including the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and the trans-Caspian and trans-Caucasus oil and gas pipeline systems, which are commercially acceptable, just and non-discriminatory, is an extremely significant project which will transport to the world markets the hydrocarbon resources produced in the countries of the Caspian Sea region and other concerned countries.

3. On the eve of a decision concerning the main Azerbaijani export pipeline, the Presidents strongly confirmed their determination in favour of the completion of the Caspian-Mediterranean (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan) project as the main export pipeline project.

4. They also stressed the importance for this line to be open equally to the producers and to the transporters located on both sides of the Caspian Sea, and for throughput to be assured for the line. With this goal in mind, the Presidents are inviting the companies participating in the exploitation of the hydrocarbon resources in the Caspian region and other interested companies as well as the international financial institutions to conduct negotiations with the Governments concerned in a comprehensive and constructive manner, offering favourable terms and to support the attainment of the financing needed for the construction of the pipelines.

5. In conformity with the international rules concerning the protection of the rights of foreign and local investors relating to projects on the transport of energy resources to world markets, the Presidents have undertaken to instruct the relevant authorities in their respective countries regarding the creation, at the earliest date, of all the necessary conditions for the completion of the East-West energy corridor, and within this framework, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. They have also agreed to take the necessary measures to create favourable conditions for the investors.

6. The Presidents reiterated the importance of the maintenance of efforts for the protection of the coasts of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Turkish Straits. The Presidents therefore stressed that the transport of the oil and natural gas resources to the

world markets through pipelines is indispensable to avoid the dangers and threats with regard to the environment, life, property and the safety of navigation stemming from the potential increase of the tanker traffic, particularly in the Turkish Straits.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan:
(*Signed*) Haydar **Aliyev**

For Georgia:
(*Signed*) Eduard **Shevardnadze**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**
(Agree, subject to transportation of 20 billion cubic metres of gas to Turkey)

For the Republic of Turkey:
(*Signed*) Süleyman **Demirel**

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
(*Signed*) Islam **Karimov**

Witnessed by Secretary of Energy of the United States of America:
(*Signed*) Bill **Richardson**